

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 OES-03 TRSE-00 /053 W

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R 301714Z APR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO ERDA GERMANTOWN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8788

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

NRC BETHESDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3878

PASS TO A.S. FRIEDMAN, DIP; INFO T.A. NEMZEK, AND NRC PASS

H. BROWN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: DRAGON NUCLEAR REACTOR PROJECT

1. MR. FABRIZIO CACCIA-DOMINIONI, CHEF DU DIRECTORATE E (ENERGY INDUSTRY) OF THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL III, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS, COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND MR. DEBACCI, WHO WORKS FOR MR. CACCIA-DOMINIONI IN THE AREAS OF ADVANCED REACTOR SYSTEMS, CONTACTED ERDA/BRUSSELS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE FATE OF THE DRAGON PROJECT. THEY DO NOT WISH ANY OFFICIAL INDICATION THEY INITIATED THE MEETING.

2. THE PRESENT CONTRACT FOR THE DRAGON PROJECT IS DUE TO EXPIRE BY MARCH OF 1976 AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES MUST MAKE A DECISION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ITS SUPPORT BY JUNE 1975. MR. CACCIA-DOMINIONI CONFIDENTIALLY EVALUATES THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EXTENSION OF THE DRAGON PROJECT BEYOND ITS PRESENT CONTRACT AS IMPROBABLY BECAUSE:

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A. HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UK NO LONGER WANTS TO SUPPORT

THIS PROJECT (DUE TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AT HOME) AND
B. ITALY IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT BECAUSE THEY DO
NOT FORESEE HTGRS IN THEIR FUTURE.
THE SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT IS STRONGEST IN WEST GERMANY AND
AMONG THE NON-EEC MEMBERS, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, AND AUSTRIA.
MR. CACCIA-DOMINIONI EVALUATES FRANCE'S DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE AS
LUKEWAR. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM FROM 1976
THROUGH 1981 WILL COST APPROXIMATELY 28 MILLION POUNDS, WITH
INFLATION TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. MR. CACCIA-DOMINIONI ASKS US TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS IN
EXTENDING THE PROJECT. SEPARATELY, BUT DIRECTLY RELATED HE ASKED
FOR OUR THOUGHTS ON THE UTILITY AND OVER ALL BENEFITS OF THIS
PROJECT WHICH HE MIGHT USE AS TALKING POINTS WITH ITALY, ENGLAND,
AND FRANCE. FURTHERMORE, IF THERE ARE ANY PLANS BY US AGENCIES TO
PARTICIPATE (EITHER FINANCIALLY OR THROUGH TECHNICAL SUPPORT) IN
THIS PROJECT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THIS COULD BE COMMUNICATED
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CONTRACTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU03878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0412
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaacx.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAGON NUCLEAR REACTOR PROJECT
TAGS: TECH
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006